

Landscape and Physical Environment

The papers of celebrated writer and cartographer Tim Robinson record the painstaking work of documenting the landscape, culture and geography of the west of Ireland, especially special areas such as Connemara, The Burren and the Aran Islands. The archive of pioneering filmmaker and environmentalist Éamon de Buítléar is a record of a life dedicated to understanding and preserving the unique beauty and diversity of the Irish landscape and waterways.



Photographic Collections

Photographs are among the most stimulating and aesthetic of archival records, capturing split-second moments and reactions from individuals, places or mass public movements. Collections include the Ritchie-Pickow archive, taken by American photographer George Pickow as his wife, folk-singer Jean Ritchie, collected song across Ireland in the 1950s; Photographs of the west of Ireland taken by renowned filmmaker, writer and photographer, Bob Quinn and also the photographs of German folklorist, Heinrich Becker, taken along his travels of the Western seaboard in the 1930s. The Balfour album depicts images taken in Connemara along the Galway-Clifden Railway in 1896.

Landed Estates

Landed estate records highlight the history of land in the West of Ireland through its ownership, occupancy and use as well as the lives of the families who governed large estates through successive generations. These records date from the mid-17th Century through to the actions of the Land Commission in the early 20th century. These estates include those of the Ormsby Family of Ballinamore, Co. Mayo and of Galway land-owning families of the 18th-20th centuries, the O'Connor Donnellan family and the Kirwans of Castlehackett.

Galway Civic Records

'Liber A' is the first volume of civic records which document the growth and development of Galway City, its governance and bye-laws, economy, religion and society. Manuscript accounts list Pyerse Lynche as first Mayor of Galway, 1486, and offer annual reports on Galway political and economic activity. Related collections include further record books of Galway Corporation; records of Galway Town Commissioners and later iterations as Galway Urban District Council, showing the history and impact of transition to the new Irish Free State in the 1920s

